SRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Minister for Finance, Planning and Youth Welfare):—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The National Development Council had decided that the State Governments should devote special attention to the subject of Development of backward areas within their plan ceilings to reduce regional imbalances. The Committee of National Development Council consisting of State Chief Ministers decided on September 26, 1969 that fiscal and financial incentives should be given for starting of industries in backward areas.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government has asked the Heads of Departments to give preferential treatment to Bidar while implimenting the Fourth Plan Schemes, within the Departmental Plan ceilings. They have been asked to tour Bidar district intensively at least once a year and review the working of the Departmental programmes and take steps to intensify the activities. The Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga, has also been asked to review the progress of development work of each department during the Divisional Level Co-ordination Committee meetings.

(*e*) The Small Farmers Development Agency Scheme has been prepared and the Government of India have approved the scheme.

TRANSFERS OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

339. SRI K. H. PATIL (Gadag):—

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of heads of the Departments holding the same posts for more than 4 years and the circumstances warranting their continuance in the same post:

(*b*) the uniform policy now being followed for keeping the officials as heads of the department:

(*c*) whether it is a fact that frequent transfers have been effected in some cases within a period of one year;

(*d*) if so, the reasons for such transfer?

SRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister):—

(*a*) 21; of these, 16 are non-transferable being Departmental Promotees and the remaining had to be continued in the exigencies of public service.

(*b*) In respect of Heads of Departments, other than Departmental Promotees normally they are liable for transfer after a period of three years.

(Sri VEERENDRA PATIL)

(c) Yes; in exceptional circumstances transfers had to be effected within a period of one year.

(d) The reasons are exigencies of administration.

FIRE BRIGADE UNITS IN DHARWAR DISTRICT

344. SRI. R. G. WALI (Hubli):—

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government has come to know that villagers in Dharwar District are put to lot of trouble due to accidental fire in rural areas, for want of adequate Fire Extinguishing facilities;

(b) whether Government has any proposal of providing Fire Brigade Units at various centres in Dharwar District; if so, when the same will be taken up?

SRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister):—

(a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

MR. SPEAKER:—I am sorry that Question Hour could not be utilised fully However, it is not possible under the rules for me to continue the Questions Hour now, I will go to the next item.

Sri M. NAGAPPA:—What about the held over Question No. 66

MR. SPEAKER:—I shall take it up tomorrow

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA:— I have given notice. I have sought your permissionto submit a few points with regard to the Government order No. F D 73 SRP dated 16th Februvary 1970 regarding the creation of posts of Junior Engineers in the Public Works Department According to this, it is stated that 680 new posts, nearly one-third of the existing cadre strength, of graduate Junior Engineers will be created and they will have to be filled up.

MR. SPEAKER:—Hon Member can mention that tomorrow.